

# Basic Training Graduation Letter

## D/1-19<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery

### CLASS 44-14

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#### **FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Hello again to the Families of Delta Battery! The Soldiers of Delta Battery are proving their mettle every day. They are motivated, fit, knowledgeable and ready to graduate! Before they do, however, there are still three more weeks of rigorous mandatory training.

This is the time of the cycle when Families are anxious to make their travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This newsletter will provide you with information you need in order to make your travel arrangements. **We strongly suggest that you do not make any travel arrangements that cannot be changed until you have received confirmation from your Soldier that they are eligible to graduate.** I will ensure that your Soldier contacts you to confirm his eligibility. Your Soldier is scheduled to graduate on **Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at McMahon Auditorium.**

A brief reception will be held following graduation. This will allow you time to talk to the Drill Sergeants and Cadre, while your Soldier prepares to go on pass.

While you are here at Fort Sill, we ask that you help us to preserve our training environment. Please do not smoke or use inappropriate language in or around the training area. Please wear appropriate attire; there is no dress code, but vulgar or distasteful slogans or exposures are unacceptable.

Finally, I consider you my personal guest during your stay here at Fort Sill. If there is anything I can do to accommodate you

while you are here, please let me or a cadre member know.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

#### **GRADUATION WEEK!!!**

Graduation week will be very busy for your Soldier; however, I have scheduled a couple times during that week for you to spend some time with your Soldier. Soldiers who are in graduating status will be authorized a pass in order to visit with Family away from the Battery area. However, a pass is a privilege that can be revoked if a Soldier is involved in any misconduct. This happens on occasions, and I want to let you know about this policy up front so there are no surprises.

**THURSDAY,  
19 June 2014**

The first Family-oriented event for graduation week is the Family Day Demonstration at Delta Battery from **9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** It is recommended that you show up at least 15 minutes early. In this brief, the Battery will highlight the accomplishments the Soldiers made over the past ten weeks and discuss the pass policy for Thursday and Friday. There will be a Family Day demonstration conducted by the Soldiers.

Following the Family Day demonstration, Soldiers will be released on pass from the Battery. While on pass, Soldiers **MUST** remain within the confines of the Lawton/Fort Sill area. **Soldiers must be back at the Battery by 8:00 p.m.** in order to

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ensure they are present for the accountability formation.

**FRIDAY,  
20 June 2014**

Graduation ceremonies will begin at **1:00 p.m. on June 20<sup>th</sup> in McMahon Auditorium. The doors will open at 12:45 p.m.** During the ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldier as they graduate. The graduating class will be seated together and will not have the opportunity to socialize at this time. Immediately following the ceremony, we will host a reception. This will give you a chance to see other Family members, talk with the Drill Sergeants and Cadre and enjoy some refreshments. Your Soldier will join you at the reception. Following the reception, your Soldier will be released on pass. **All Soldiers, except those attending AIT at Fort Sill, will be released from McMahon Auditorium and will be allowed to go on pass.** Soldiers who are staying at Ft. Sill for AIT who are a 13 series MOS will report to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 78<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, and 14 series MOS will report to the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery, immediately following graduation. At that point, pass privileges are given at the discretion of his new command team. You can reach 1-78 FA at (580) 442-6468 and 6 ADA at (580) 442-2091. Again, all other Soldiers must be back at the Battery by **8:00 p.m.** in order to insure they are at the accountability formation.

#### **June 21<sup>st</sup> AND BEYOND...**

Most Soldiers will be leaving Fort Sill in the early morning of **June 21<sup>st</sup>**. Unfortunately, we will not typically receive confirmation on your Soldier's definite travel arrangements until approximately 72 hours prior to graduation. Additionally, all Soldiers, of any MOS, must travel to his AIT location via government travel arrangements. **They are not authorized to travel with Family Members to report to their AIT location.**

If you have important questions or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact the unit:

We are here to train your Soldier and welcome them into the Army. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

##### **Battery Commander**

CPT Matthan C. Russell

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##### **Battery First Sergeant**

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